

LIAISON *BBC*

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[REDACTED]
F.B.I.S.,
2430 E Street, NW,
Washington 25, D.C.

20th July 1954

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for your letter of 7th July enclosing a copy of the reply you received from the Chief of your Tokyo Bureau on the procedures there in the use of NHK scripts. While I appreciate that [REDACTED] has instituted an additional check before filing a script item, I do not feel that this really overcomes the reluctance which our Foreign Office people have in making use of material which is the result of script scrutiny. The two main objections to the use of this material seem to be - STAT

- (i) that we are dependent on NHK's own translation of the script and there is no possibility of checking whether in fact the translation of any particular item is accurate;
- (ii) there is always the chance that either by accident or design significant material broadcast by NHK might not be supplied to you, or that the script as broadcast might not be strictly in accordance with that supplied.

We agree that the very satisfactory coverage of Kyodo and Jiji precludes the need for monitoring NHK Home or International Service newcasts, but we do feel it is important that there should be monitoring of commentaries and Press Reviews broadcast by the Home Service and any commentaries broadcast by the International Service particularly angled to a foreign audience. It is understood that so far no such original comment is broadcast for abroad, and I am sure FBIS would not miss any significant departure from this policy.

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Our difficulties in accepting the script scrutiny method as entirely satisfactory are heightened by the progressive handing over to the Japanese of the control of their own affairs, and also the possibility of stricter Government control of NHK following the recent announcement of the setting up of a committee to study the revision of the broadcasting laws. I am sure our interests must be very closely aligned in this matter. It is not without some hesitation that I make these points to you as I realise the problem which is created for the Tokyo Bureau, but quite frankly the script scrutiny material from Tokyo is not regarded as satisfactory by our Foreign Office and indeed we have, I think, in our recent Guidance Notes suggested that it should not be included.

I see from the press here that the defence of Hokkaido is before long to be handed back to the Japanese, and this prompts me to wonder what is to be the future of the Bureau there. I know you had plans for this eventuality but I should be interested to learn whether these are to be put into operation. In any event I am sure this will not affect the valuable coverage which Hokkaido has given us.

There is one other point which I might take this opportunity of mentioning to you, and that is that a week or two ago Murray of the Foreign Office, who is one of Dean's deputies, rang me up to say that they did not anticipate that there would be any great difficulty in reaching a satisfactory conclusion over the licensing of your operations in Cyprus, and that he did not expect that we would be called upon to take any steps in the matter. I have not heard anything more since then but I take it from this that matters are proceeding smoothly.

I hope that you felt that your visit here was worth while. For myself it was of the greatest value as it enabled me to discuss with you the problems which are now facing us and which are not so easily dealt with in writing. There have been no further developments in our budgetary situation since you were here but I am expecting to learn more about the end of the month.

Yours sincerely,



J.T. Campbell